

What is claimed:

1. A portable extender adapted for use by a visiting nurse to access patient data stored in one or more implantable medical devices (IMDs), the extender comprising:

5 means for positively identifying the visiting nurse;
means for establishing a wireless data communication with the one or more IMDs in the patient; and
means for downloading patient data from the one or more IMDs;
said means for identifying, said means for establishing and said means for
10 downloading being activatable by a digital contact means with a screen incorporated in the extender thereof.

2. The extender of claim 1 wherein said wireless data communication means includes a telemetry system.

15 3. The extender of claim 1 wherein said means for identifying includes one of and a combination of a video cam, voice recognition, digital signature, biological/physiological sensor to positively identify the visiting nurse and allow access to IMD data via the portable extender.

20 4. The extender of claim 3 wherein said video cam is implemented to capture anatomical images of the patient and/or the nurse.

5. The extender of claim 4 wherein said anatomical images are transferred to a remote
25 location.

6. The extender of claim 5 wherein said anatomical image transferred to said remote location is implemented to identify the nurse before allowing access to IMD data.

7. The portable extender of claim 1, further including a GPS system imbedded to enable the nurse to plot a most efficient sequence of visits to patients scheduled at a given time.

8. The portable extender of claim 1 wherein said means for positively identifying
5 includes means for comparing data including fingerprint, facial, voice and iris data against a biometrics data stored in the portable extender.

9. The portable extender of claim 1 wherein data is transferred via a wireless communication link including one of a cellular and satellite system.

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10. A portable extender adapted for use by a visiting nurse to manage home-based care of one or more patients with one or more IMDs wherein the extender includes computer-implemented software to organize, plan and manage the visiting nurse's schedule and patient evaluation information, the portable extender and computer-implemented software in
15 combination, comprising:

means for downloading a daily schedule data for the nurse;

means for downloading patient data from the IMDs;

means for entering non-IMD medical data; and

means for transferring the patient evaluation data to a remote location;

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said mean for downloading a schedule, said means for downloading patient location, said means for entering and said means for transferring being implemented in the portable extender and the software having logic means to store, compile and manage aid location data, said patient data, said non-IMD data and said patient evaluation data.

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11. The combination of claim 10 wherein said means for downloading a daily schedule data includes one of IvDA, RF cellular and satellite link between the portable extender and a remote clinic/physician station.

12. The combination of claim 10 wherein said means for downloading patient location includes an imbedded GPS system including software to calculate the most efficient sequence of patient visits scheduled for the nurse.

5 13. The combination of claim 10 wherein said means for entering non-IMD medical data includes a data base where additional physiological data about the patient is entered and updated during the nurse's visit.

10 14. The combination of claim 10 wherein the software includes Medicare form generation data base, patient medication and pharmacist contact data base and physician expert contact/consulting data base.

11 15. The combination of claim 10 wherein the software includes a data base for patient medication and pharmacist contact data base and physician expert contact/consulting data base.